

### **Abstract**

The invention presents an information processing apparatus having a simple structure and which is capable of distinguishing between states of use, automatically changing over the display direction of the display screen, and excellent in shock durability, protection from water drops and dust, as well as power savings. The information processing apparatus includes a main body having a first contact-free sensor element, a display unit having a display panel and a second contact-free sensor element, a hinge having axes of rotation for coupling the main body and the display unit, and a display processor for rotating the display of the display panel. At least either the first contact-free sensor element or the second contact-free sensor element sends a first signal to the display processor when the first contact-free sensor element and the second contact-free sensor element are placed face to face, and the display processor rotates the display of the display panel according to the first signal.